

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/03387
filed on October 13, 2003.

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION ~~Background of the Invention~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0001]:

[0001.2] Field of the Invention

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to an improved overpressure valve for a packaging container, ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.2] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] One ~~such~~ overpressure valve for a packaging container, ~~is already~~ known from German Patent Disclosure DE 35 21 373 A1, ~~it~~ comprises a base plate and a diaphragm extending over the base plate. Slitlike gas passage openings are embodied in the diaphragm which at an appropriate overpressure in the packaging container communicate with a through opening in the base plate and thus form a through conduit for the gas. The known overpressure valve for a packaging container is intended for being mounted on the outside of the packaging container.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] More and more, there is a demand by packagers to dispose such overpressure valves on the inside of a packaging container, so that the overpressure valve is not visually so striking and moreover is less susceptible to damage ~~practically cannot be damaged~~ from outside. Although the known overpressure valve of DE 35 21 373 A1 does advantageously have a very simple structure, nevertheless this reference makes no suggestions of how such an overpressure valve would have to be embodied so as to be attached to the inside of a packaging container.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

~~Advantages of the Invention~~

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The overpressure valve of the invention for a packaging container, ~~having the definitive characteristics of claim 1,~~ has the advantage that while being very simple and therefore economical to produce, it can be disposed on the inside of a packaging container.

Page 2, please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] Advantageous refinements of the overpressure valve for a packaging container of the invention are disclosed ~~in the dependent claims~~. An especially low opening pressure of the overpressure valve can be attained if the at least one passage opening in the base plate takes the form of two intersecting circles. For joining the diaphragm to the base plate by a simple production process, in one advantageous version the diaphragm is embodied of two layers joined together; on one layer, an edge which extends all the way around is left free and is glued to the base plate. In another preferred version, the outer contours of the individual

components of the overpressure valve are embodied essentially rectangularly, so that the overpressure valves can be formed by placing lengths of material one above the other; then the individual overpressure valves need merely be stamped out of the composite length of material, which produces relatively little waste.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS **Drawing**

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Exemplary embodiments ~~One exemplary embodiment~~ of the invention are is ~~shown in the drawing and~~ described in further detail below, with reference to the drawings, in which : ~~Shown are:~~

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] ~~Fig. 1,~~ Fig. 1 is a cross section through an overpressure valve for a packaging container according to the invention and which is disposed on the inside of a wall of packaging material;

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Figs. 2a and 2b show ~~Fig. 2,~~ connecting elements ~~shown~~ in plan view, one being suitable for being glued to the inner wall of the packaging material and the other being suitable for ultrasonic welding;

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] ~~Fig. 3,~~ Fig. 3 is a plan view on a diaphragm;

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] ~~Fig. 4,~~ Fig. 4 is a side view of the diaphragm of Fig. 3; and

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] ~~Fig. 5, Fig. 5 is~~ a plan view on a composite length of material from which the individual overpressure valves can be separated.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiment~~

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] The overpressure valve 10 shown in Fig. 1 serves to conduct gas, present at overpressure in a packaging container, not shown, out of the packaging container so as to prevent the destruction of the packaging container. The overpressure valve 10 is preferably intended for use in coffee packages, where the packaging container is of flexible, hot-sealable packaging material. The overpressure valve 10 is secured to an inside 2 of a length of packaging material 1. Next, the packaging container in question, not shown, can be shaped from a portion of the length of packaging material 1 in such a way that the overpressure valve 10 is disposed, ~~as mentioned,~~ on the inside surface of the packaging container.

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] On the side toward the inside of the packaging material, the connecting element 14 is disposed on the diaphragm 13. The connecting element 14 is of PET, with a thickness of approximately 200 μm , and it has an outer contour 29 that corresponds to the outer contours 15, 22 of the base plate 12 and the diaphragm 13, respectively. Inside the connecting element 14, a rectangular recess 30 is embodied, which corresponds in shape and size approximately to the outer periphery ~~those~~ of the layer 21 of the diaphragm 13. ~~The connecting element 14 is of PET, with a thickness of approximately 200 μm .~~

Page 26, please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] With respect to the function of the overpressure valve 10, it will be noted that gas produced in the package interior gets into the passage opening 16, possibly after passing through the filter element 35. At a defined overpressure of the gas, the diaphragm 13 gradually lifts away, creating a conduit for the gas between the passage opening 16 and the slit or slits 27, 28. Once the gas 10 has passed through the slits 27, 28, it reaches the environment through the hole 3 ~~23~~. As soon as the overpressure in the package interior has decreased because of the escape of the gas, the diaphragm 13 presses against the base plate 12 again and seals it off from the outside.

Page 6, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0028]:

[0029] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.